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Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London.

SESSION 1851-52.

First Ordinary Meeting, November 10, 1851.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia was elected an Honorary Member, and

Thomas Evans Blackwell, Esq., C.E.; and Col. Harry Jones, R.E., were elected Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Proposed Expedition along the Coasts of Siberia in search of Sir J. Franklin, by Lieut. B. C. Pim, R.N.

2. Journey from Great Bear Lake to Wollaston Land, by Dr. John Rae, and

3. Progress of the Mission to Central Africa and Lake Chad, by Dr. Barth.

Second Ordinary Meeting, November 24, 1851.

Sir WOODBINE PARISH, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Chairman directed attention to the munificent present of maps and charts from Lieut.-General de Skribaneck, of Vienna, to whom a special vote of thanks was unanimously passed.

Lieut.-General de Skribaneck, of Austria, was elected an Honorary, and

Don Pascual Madoz, of Spain, a Corresponding Member, and Sir Wm. Molesworth, Bart., M.P.; Capt. Wm. Ramsay, R.N.; James Ewing, Esq.; E. J. Harrington, Esq.; Rev. Samuel Clark, M.A.; Wm. Wilberforce Bird, Esq.; Lieut. B. C. Pim, R.N.; Dr. B. Bynoe, R.N.; Dr. W. F. Daniel; R. Maxwell Fox, Esq., M.P.; Capt. Richard Strackey, of the Bengal Engineers; and W. B. Beaumont, Esq., M.P., were elected Fellows.

The Paper read was—

Notes on the Geographical Discoveries in the Arctic Regions, made by the late expedition under Capt. Austin, R.N., by Capt. E. Ommanney, R.N., F.R.G.S.

Third Ordinary Meeting, December 8, 1851.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

Professor Hermann Abich, of the Caucasus, was elected a Corresponding Member, and

Robert Cust, Esq., of the Hon. East India Company's Civil Service; Lieut. E. M. Leicester, R.N.; and Henry Bois, Esq., were elected Fellows.

The President announced that the 21st volume of the Journal had been published by the Secretary, and would be presented, upon application, *free* to the Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Letter from Capt. Penny on Sir J. Franklin's Expedition.
2. Description of the Friendly Islands, and Visit of H.M.S. Meander, Capt. the Hon. H. Keppel, to Tongatabu, in 1850, by O. W. Brierly, Esq., F.R.G.S.

Fourth Ordinary Meeting, January 12, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

Mr. J. Oliveira de Carvalho; Wm. Devoy; A. Anderdon Weston, M.A.; J. W. Parker, jun.; and Algernon Greville, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Ascent of Orizaba in Mexico, by Ed. Thornton, Esq., F.R.G.S.
2. Communications respecting the Expeditions proposed by Lieut. Pim, R.N., and by Capt. Beatson, in search of Sir J. Franklin.
3. Communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific, *viâ* British North America, by Capt. M. H. Synge, R.E., F.R.G.S. (*First Part.*)

Fifth Ordinary Meeting, January 26, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

J. Haughton Langston, Esq., M.P.; J. A. Silk, Esq.; E. Owen Tudor, Esq.; Oswald Walters Brierly, Esq.; and the Rev. Rob. M. Inskip, were elected Fellows.

The Paper read was—

Communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific, *viâ* British North America, by Capt. M. H. Synge, R.E. (*Second Part.*)

Sixth Ordinary Meeting, February 9, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

Nathaniel Beardmore, Esq., C.E.; Capt. M. H. Synge, R.E.; and David Barclay, Esq., were elected Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Lieut. Pim's statement on his return from St. Petersburg.
2. Distribution of Arctic Animal Life, by Mr. A. Petermann, F.R.G.S., and
3. Latest Explorations in South Africa, by the Rev. D. Livingston and W. Cotton Oswald, Esq. (*First Part.*)

Seventh Ordinary Meeting, February 23, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

The Hon. Robert Bourke; the Ven. Archdeacon Raymond; Robert Cooke; and James Crowdy, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Meteorological Notices in Egypt, by Hugh Thurburn, Esq., and
2. Expedition into the Interior of South Africa, from Walfisch Bay, by Francis Galton, Esq., F.R.G.S. (*First Part.*)

The President announced that he had directed cards of invitation to his three soirées, on March the 6th and 20th, and April 3rd, to be sent to every Fellow of the Society whose address was known, and expressed his hope to see a full attendance at his house on those occasions.

Eighth Ordinary Meeting, March 8, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

Henry Grinnell, Esq., President of the Geographical Society of New York, was elected an Honorary Member, and Capt. Donald Beatson; Capt. Wm. Peel, R.N.; Joshua Bates; and J. W. Prout, M.A., Esqrs., were elected Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Route from Tripoli to Ghadamis, by Vice-Consul Dickson.
2. Narrative of the visit of H.M.S. 'Calypso,' Captain Worth, to the Georgian, Navigators', Feejee, and Friendly Islands.

Ninth Ordinary Meeting, March 22, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

The Earl of Verulam; Commanders William S. Pullen, and Washington Carr, R.N., were elected Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Statement on the progress of the proposed Behring Strait Expedition in search of Sir J. Franklin, by Capt. Beatson.
2. Notes on the Distribution of Arctic Animal Life, by Mr. P. L. Simmonds, and
3. Travels in South-Western and South-Eastern Africa, by Mr. H. Gassiot.

Tenth Ordinary Meeting, April 5, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

Samuel R. Block, Esq., was elected a Fellow.

The papers read were—

1. Account of the recent Exploration of the South and East Coasts of Victoria Land, in the Arctic Regions, in search of Sir John Franklin, by Dr. John Rae, and
2. On the Classification of Watersheds, by the Rev. C. G. Nicolay, F.R.G.S.

Eleventh Ordinary Meeting, April 26, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

Prince Emmanuel Galitzin, of Russia, Author of a Geographical work on Finland, was elected a Corresponding Member, and

Capt. J. C. Dalrymple Hay, R.N.; Capt. R. M. Westmacott; and Courtenay Tagart, Esq., were elected Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Expedition into the Interior of South Africa, from Walfisch Bay, by Francis Galton, Esq., F.R.G.S. (*Second Part.*)

2. A proposal to ascend the Niger, and descend the Gambia, by Lieut. Lyons MacLeod, R.N.

Twelfth Ordinary Meeting, May 10, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

Colonel Edward Sabine, R.A., F.R.S.; Lieut. Lyons MacLeod, R.N.; and Henry Edwards, Esq., were elected Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Observations taken with the Aneroid in Palestine and Syria, by Capt. Wm. Allen, R.N.

2. Sketch of the Geography of Borneo, by John Crawford, Esq., F.R.S., F.R.G.S., and

3. Account of the Volcanic Group of Milo, by Lieut. E. M. Leicester, R.N., F.R.G.S.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 1 P.M., MAY 24, 1852.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting having been read and confirmed, Aug. Petermann and Jno. Brown, Esqs., were appointed Scrutineers for the Ballot. The Report of the Council, together with the Balance-sheet for 1851, and the Estimates for 1852, was read and adopted. The President then reported the grounds on which the Council had awarded the Royal Medals, “for the Encouragement of Geographical Science and Discovery,” to Dr. John Rae, of the Hudson’s Bay Company, and Capt. Henry Strachey, of the Honourable East India Company’s service (see p. lvii). The Anniversary Address was next read, when a vote of thanks was unanimously passed, with a request that the President do allow the Address to be printed.

At the conclusion of the Ballot the Scrutineers reported to the President that the changes recommended by the Council had been adopted, and that the following had been duly elected:—

President.—Sir RODERICK IMPEY MURCHISON, G.C.St.S., F.R.S., &c., Corr. Inst. Fr.

Vice-Presidents.—Sir GEORGE BACK, R.N., F.R.S.; Sir WOODBINE PARISH, K.C.H., F.R.S.; Capt. W. H. SMYTH, R.N., K.S.F.; Right Hon. the Earl of ELLESMERE, F.S.A.

Treasurer and ex-officio Trustee.—ROBERT BIDDULPH, Esq.

Trustees.—Sir GEO. T. STAUNTON, Bart., F.R.S.; W. R. HAMILTON, Esq., F.R.S.

Honorary Secretaries.—Colonel PHILIP YORKE, F.R.S., &c.; THOMAS HODGKIN, Esq., M.D., &c.

Council.—JOHN ARROWSMITH, Esq., F.R.A.S.; Admiral Sir FRANCIS BEAUFORT, K.C.B.; Right Hon. Lord COLCHESTER, R.N.; RALPH W. GREY, Esq., M.P.; Colonel SABINE, R.A., F.R.S.; Sir CHARLES FELLOWS, V.P.R.I.; Capt. ROBERT FITZROY, R.N., F.R.S.; GEO. BELLAS GREENOUGH, Esq., F.R.S.; W. J. HAMILTON, Esq., F.G.S.; JOHN HOGG, Esq., M.A., F.R.S.; Right Rev. the BISHOP of ST. ASAPH; Right Hon. the Earl of SHEFFIELD; E. OSBORNE SMITH, Esq., F.S.A.; Lieut.-Col. W. H. SYKES, F.R.S.; JAMES MURRAY, Esq. (Foreign Office); Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND, R.N., F.R.S.; GEORGE O'GORMAN, Esq., F.G.S.; Sir J. GARDNER WILKINSON, F.R.S.; HENRY RAFFER, Esq., R.N., F.R.A.S.; Rev. G. C. RENOUARD, B.D., F.R.A.S.; Sir WALTER C. TREVELYAN, Bart., M.A.

The thanks of the Meeting were next separately voted to the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, and Members of the Council, as well as the Auditors and Scrutineers.

The President finally directed the attention of the Society to the usual Anniversary Dinner, and the Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting, June 14, 1852.

H.R.H. Prince ALBERT, the Vice-Patron, present.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

Professor Christoforo Negri, Chief of the Consular Department of the Foreign Office of Turin, was elected a Corresponding Member; and Joseph Locke, Esq., M.P.; John Chevallier Cobbold, Esq., M.P.; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Esq., F.R.S.; Lieut.-Col. Wm. J. D'Urban; James French, Esq., M.D.; Commander James Banks West, R.N.; Lieut. Wm. Charles Buncroft, 16th Regt., Jamaica; Daniel Clarke, A. de Boinville, and Geo. Frederick Harris, Esqs., were elected Fellows.

The Papers read were—

1. Surveys in Western Tibet (for which the Victoria Medal was this year awarded to Capt. Henry Strachey), by Capt. R. Strachey.
2. Latest Explorations in South Africa by Messrs. Livingston and William Cotton Oswell (*Second Part*), with Observations by the President on the new Geological Map of the Cape Colony by Mr. Bain.
3. Proposal to excavate the ancient Harbour of Seleucia, with a view to a Communication with the East, *viâ* the Euphrates, by Capt. William Allen, R.N., F.R.S., F.R.G.S., and
4. On the Climate of Zanzibar, with Observations on the progress of discovery in Eastern Africa, by Colonel W. H. Sykes, F.R.S., F.R.G.S.

The thanks of the Society were then unanimously voted to the President and authorities of the Royal Institution, for their kindness in granting the use of the Theatre of that Institution for the Evening Meetings of the Society during the past Session.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Twenty-second Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Belfast, September 1 to 9, 1852. (Section E, Geography and Ethnology.)

President.—Colonel CHESNEY, R.A., D.C.L., F.R.S., F.R.G.S., &c.

Vice-Presidents.—Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, Pres. R.G.S.; Major LARCOM, R.E.; and the Rev. Dr. E. HINCKS.

Secretaries.—Dr. NORTON SHAW, Sec. R.G.S.; R. CULL, Esq., Sec. Ethn. Soc.; and ROBERT MACADAM, Esq., of Belfast.

Committee.—His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of DUBLIN; Capt. WILLIAM ALLEN, R.N., F.R.G.S.; Rev. W. BRUCE; Dr. A. HUME; F. HINDMARSH, Esq., F.R.G.S.; Sir H. MARSH; J. GRATTAN, Esq.; Professor MACDOUALL; Dr. MOORE; Sir J. ROSS; Mr. PIERRE TCHIHATCHEF; Col. SYKES, F.R.S., F.R.G.S.; Lieut. L. MACLEOD, R.N., F.R.G.S.; J. G. PRICE, Esq.; WENTWORTH DILKE, Esq., F.R.G.S.; Col. SABINE, F.R.S., F.R.G.S.; Dr. LEE, of Hartwell, F.R.S., F.R.G.S.; Dr. M'GEE, R.N.; Dr. STANGER; J. E. WINTERBOTTOM, Esq., F.R.G.S.

The Papers read were—

1. Proposal for the Excavation of the ancient Port of Seleucia, in connection with the route by the Euphrates to India, by Capt. William Allen, R.N.

2. On the Ethnological Bearing of the recent Discoveries, in connection with the Assyrian Inscriptions, by the Rev. Edward Hincks.

3. On the Geographical Distribution of Common Salt, by W. Bol-laert, Esq., F.R.G.S.

4. Description of a Samoeid Family, by J. W. Giles, Esq.

5. Notes on the Aurora Borealis, by Sir J. Ross.

6. Proposal for a Railroad through Asia Minor, by W. F. Ainsworth, Esq., F.R.G.S.

7. Climatological Notes on Pisa and Lucca, by Dr. J. Gason.

8. Proposed Expedition to ascend the Niger, by Lieut. L. MacLeod, R.N., F.R.G.S.

9. On the possessions of the Imaun of Muscat, and on the Climate of Zanzibar, with Observations on the Prospects of African discovery, by Colonel Sykes.

10. Comparative merits of the proposed Routes to India, by Colonel Chesney.

11. On the Connection between the Indian, European, Semitic, and Egyptian forms of the Personal Pronouns, by the Rev. Dr. Hincks.

12. On the Present State of Medo-Persic Philology, by Professor MacDouall.

13. Recent Journey through Africa from Zanzibar to Angola, communicated by the Royal Geographical Society.

14. Latest Explorations in South Africa, by the Rev. D. Livingstone and W. Cotton Oswell, Esq.

15. Expedition to the Eastward of Walfisch Bay, by Francis Galton, Esq., F.R.G.S.

16. Attempt to account for the numerous marks of sudden and violent drainage in the Valley of the Dead Sea, with a proposition for a Ship Canal to India, by Capt. W. Allen, R.N., F.R.G.S.

17. Proposed Communication with the East, *viâ* British North America, by Capt. M. H. Synge, R.E., F.R.G.S.

18. Some Account of the Origin, Characteristics, and Dialect of the People of Counties Down and Antrim, by the Rev. Dr. Hume.

19. Recent Survey for a Ship Canal through Central America, communicated by the Royal Geographical Society.

20. On the Misapplication of the terms Development and Evolution to the Formation of the Inflections of a Language, with

21. Note on Blumenbach's 'Classification of the Human Race,' by Richard Cull, Esq.

22. Report of the Proceedings in Central Australia in search of Dr. Leichhardt's Missing Expedition, communicated by the Royal Geographical Society.

23. Remarks on a Collection to illustrate the Ethnology of Java, communicated by Dr. Hodgkin.

24. Letter on the Commerce of the Upper Nile, from Vice-Consul Vaudey, translated and communicated by Dr. Shaw.

25. The Ice-masses of Greenland and the Icebergs of the Arctic Seas, by Mr. Rink, of Copenhagen, communicated by the Royal Geographical Society.

Among the Reports made by the Committee of Recommendations to the General Committee, were—

"That the sum of 5*l.* be granted for defraying the expenses attending the distribution of the Manual of Ethnological Inquiry prepared by a Sub-committee appointed in 1851.

That a large Outline Map of the World be provided for the use of Section E, and that Sir R. I. Murchison, the Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, Dr. Shaw, and R. Cull, Esq., the Secretaries of the Geographical and Ethnological Societies, be a Committee for carrying this into effect, with 15*l.* at their disposal for the purpose.

That in order to meet the growing wants of science, and remedy, in some degree, the inconvenience caused to its cultivators by the dissociated, incomplete, and discontinuous publication of scientific researches, it is expedient that the British Association, which, by its constitution, includes representatives of the various scientific institutions of the empire, should propose such general views on the subject as may be suggested by the experience of its members.

That a Committee be formed for the purpose of considering a plan by which the Transactions of different scientific societies may become part of one arranged system, and the records of facts and phenomena be rendered more complete, more continuous, and more convenient than at present.

That it be an instruction to this Committee to place itself in communication with the Council of the Royal Society, and the Councils of other scientific societies which receive scientific communications at regular meetings.

That the Committee consist of Professor W. Thomson, Professor Andrews, Leonard Horner, Esq., Professor Owen, Sir R. I. Murchison, Colonel Sykes, W. J. Rankine, J. C. Adams, Esq., Dr. Lloyd, Professor Wilson (Belfast), Dr. Robinson, Professor Bell, Professor Graham, W. R. Grove, Esq., Sir D.

Brewster, and *ex officio* the General Officers, with power to add to their number.

That it is important to have a quarterly record of British and foreign publications and discoveries, and that the consideration of the practicability of obtaining this be referred to the same Committee.

That the publication of the reduction upon a scale of one inch to the mile of the Townland Survey of Ireland, ordered to be made in connection with the Geological Survey by the Ordnance, and for which a vote was taken for 1852-53, upon the estimates of that department, be recommended to the Government to be accelerated.

That with the view of obtaining an accurate knowledge of the countries on and near the eastern coast of Africa, from the Red Sea to 10° S. lat., the very important products of which have been enumerated by the late Sir Charles Malcolm and Mr. W. D. Cooley, the British Association do call the attention of the Court of Directors of the Honourable the East India Company to the desirableness of sending an expedition thoroughly to explore that region, as recommended by the Royal Geographical Society of London. The deputation to consist of the President of the British Association and the President and Vice-Presidents of the Royal Geographical Society.

That the Government be requested on the part of the British Association to connect with the survey of the Gulf Stream an examination of the zoology and botany of this current, and also of the temperature of the seas around the shores of the British Islands.

The Committee having been informed that an expedition has been proposed for ascending the Niger to its source, by Lieut. Lyons MacLeod, R.N., and that it has been recommended to her Majesty's Government by the Royal Geographical Society and the Chamber of Commerce of Manchester, resolve that the President be requested to confer with the President of the Royal Geographical Society in bringing the subject before the Government.

The Committee having understood that Dr. Bakie, Mr. A. Adams, and Mr. W. T. Alexander, each of them in the medical branch of her Majesty's Navy, have offered to undertake a thorough exploration of the countries watered by the river Magdalena, in South America, in respect to their botanical, zoological, and geological products, on condition of being allowed their full pay, requests the President of the Association and Sir R. I. Murchison to urge the Government to accede to the proposition.

That the systematic collection of the agricultural statistics of Great Britain of a similar nature with the Returns of the Agricultural Produce of Ireland, prepared under the care of Major Larcom, R.E., is a desideratum, and would be of great public utility: and that the President, Mr. Heywood, Major Larcom, and Colonel Sykes be requested to communicate the above resolution to the Government.

The Committee being aware of the liberality with which the Master-General and Board of Ordnance have supplied the several engineer stations with instruments for meteorological observations, would suggest the advantage of adding to their instruments, in the Ionian Islands, others for measuring the direction and amount of earthquake vibrations, so frequent in those islands."

The next meeting of the British Association will be held at Hull.